

Window Safety Tips

1. Windows provide a secondary means of escape from a burning home. Determine your family's emergency escape plan and practice it. Remember that children may have to rely on a window to escape in a fire. Help them learn to safely use a window under these circumstances.
2. When performing spring repairs, take care to make sure that your windows are not painted or nailed shut. You must be able to open them to escape in an emergency.
3. Keep your windows closed and locked when children are around. When opening windows for ventilation, open windows that a child cannot reach.
4. Set and enforce rules about keeping children's play away from windows or patio doors. Falling through the glass can be fatal or cause serious injury.
5. Keep furniture - or anything children can climb - away from windows. Children may use such objects as a climbing aid.
6. If you have young children in your home and are considering installing window guards or window fall prevention devices, be aware that the window guards you install must have a release mechanism so that they can be opened for escape in a fire emergency. Consult your local fire department or building code official to determine proper window guard placement.
7. Some homes may have window guards, security bars, grilles or grates already covering their windows. Those windows are useless in an emergency if the devices on them do not have a functioning release mechanism. Time is critical when escaping a fire.
8. Insect screens are designed to provide ventilation and to keep insects out. They will not prevent a child's fall.
9. The degree of injury sustained from a window fall can be affected by the surface on which the victim falls. Shrubs and soft edging like wood chips or grass beneath windows may lessen the impact if a fall does occur.
10. Supervision is the key to injury prevention for children.

Out of Sight Is Good Safety Start

Among the biggest kid-safety hazards in your home and when kids are visiting family members or friends are those long dangling (and tempting) cords on window shade and blinds. Here are tips for keeping cords out of little hands from Levelor:

- Never leave children unattended with access to windows or window blinds. Tragedies resulting from playing with those long cords can happen within a matter of minutes. Parents visiting others' homes should be particularly safety conscious of cords--especially in homes where young children may not reside or regularly visit.
- Consider cordless blinds in nurseries, children's bedrooms, and playrooms.
- Keep cribs away from corded blinds and draperies. Be sure a curious child or infant can't touch and then perhaps yank down a window treatment, with potentially dangerous results.
- Hang your blind's cords on a hook out of a child's reach. This is a simple and inexpensive solution to a potential danger.
- Lock cords into position when lowering horizontal window blinds or shades.
- Use cord shorteners on blinds with long cords.